

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HA-05 SMS-01 IO-14 /097 W
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R 311625Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0577

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PROP, IT
SUBJECT: FROM THE RED BELT WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION OF USSR AND
SUPPORT FOR SOVIET DISSENTERS

1. A REACTION OF REVULSION AND CONDEMNATION SWEEPED THROUGH
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF EMILIA-ROMAGNA AND TUSCANY DURING JULY
IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET SENTENCING OF DISSIDENTS. RESO-
LUTIONS CONDEMNING THE SENTENCING WERE PASSED IN THE FORLI
CITY COUNCIL JULY 14, BOLOGNA CITY COUNCIL JULY 15, FLORENCE
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL JULY 19, FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL JULY 20,
AND BY THE LUCCA CITY COUNCIL JULY 24.

2. IN ADDITION, TWO MESSAGES WENT FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF
THE BOLOGNA PROVINCE AND THE TUSCANY REGION TO THE SOVIET
EMBASSY AND TO THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RESPECTIVELY
FOR FORWARDING TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES. THE COMMUNIST
PRESIDENT OF THE EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND
THE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF FLORENCE EACH ISSUED PRESS STATEMENTS.
BOTH THE MESSAGES AND THE PRESS STATEMENT CRITICIZED THE
USSR AND SUPPORTED THE DISSIDENTS.

3. GENERALLY ALL POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION,
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MESSAGES AND PRESS STATEMENTS. EVEN IN THOSE SITUATIONS
WHERE THE NEO-FASCIST ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT (MSI) DID
NOT SUPPORT THE ACTION TAKEN, THEY ABSTAINED RATHER VOTE IN
OPPOSITION SO ALL ACTIONS WERE TAKEN UNANIMOUSLY.

4. IN THE CLIMATE OF SYMPATHY FOR THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS
AND CRITICISM OF THE USSR, IT BECAME POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME

COMMUNIST HESITANCY AND TO ADVANCE A LONG DORMANT PROPOSAL
TO CONVENE IN FLORENCE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
PROBLEM OF DISSENT IN THE USSR. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR THE
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FOR THREE DAYS IN NOVEMBER UNDER THE
THEME OF: QUOTE DISSENT AND DEMOCRACY IN EASTERN
COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE. GORDON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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